



Thunderstorms: A Primer for Coastal and Inland Boaters



Thunderstorms can quickly spoil an outing in many ways—strong winds, large waves, dangerous lightning or visibility-limiting rain. This presentation will examine the various types of thunderstorms and the atmospheric ingredients that lead to their formation.

Learn why thunderstorms often ‘pop-up’ late on summer afternoons and why some storms have short life-spans while others persist for hours. Discover why thunderstorms remain independent on some days and form into damaging long-lived squall lines on others. Learn to recognize the conditions that spawn waterspouts and why they peak in the fall. Reduce your chances of a hair-raising or wind-swept encounter with a thunderstorm by learning to assess the potential for their development using readily available Internet resources and the sky.

Presentation Outline

- Thunderstorm hazards
- The thunderstorm life-cycle
- Types of thunderstorms
- Ingredients for thunderstorms
- Forecasting thunderstorms
- Doppler radar interpretation

LakeErieWX also offers two **full-day seminars**—*Basic Marine Weather Forecasting* and *Advanced Wind Forecasting: A Workshop for Sailors*. Details at www.lakeeriewx.com/Seminars/Seminars.html.

Mark Thornton—Speaker Biography

Mark Thornton began sailing on Lake Erie in 1994 and he currently owns *Osprey*, a 1985 C&C 35. His interest in weather forecasting grew from his experiences cruising and racing on the Lake. Mark is a 2006 graduate of the Penn State University Certificate of Achievement in Weather Forecasting, a two-year program that develops skills in general, tropical, and severe weather forecasting. He maintains a website (www.LakeErieWX.com) devoted to marine weather education and forecasting resources, and is the current president of the local chapter of the American Meteorological Society. Mark is employed as the Vice-President of Administration for the law firm of Wegman, Hessler & Vanderburg, and as a Teaching Assistant in the Certificate of Achievement in Weather Forecasting Program at Penn State University.

For more information

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